



Series: SEEING IS BELIEVING
(Book Study Gospel of John)

Christ First Church
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Sermon 5: The Word Became Flesh
(PART 2 John 1:14-18)

March 15, 2020

INTRO: Today, we continue the topic, THE WORD BECAME FLESH, as we talk about the miracle of eternal, transcendent, un-created God, becoming man.

In theological terms, this miracle is known as the Hypostatic Union of Christ. It's also called the Communion of Natures, and the Kenosis. The most familiar term used in the church, is the INCARNATION OF CHRIST. You will remember that Incarnation is Latin for enfleshed.

This is the Son of God, the second person of the Trinity, taking permanently for Himself, a human nature. This is INFINITE God becoming one with FINITE man, and doing so, for all of eternity future. Jesus is now and forever the GOD-MAN!

Last week we saw the first two points of this passage made up of verses 6-18. They were...

I) THE DIVINE PROCLAMATION: vv 6-8 This was the testimony of John the Baptist that we read about.

II) THE DIVINE PRIVILEGE: vv 9-13 That by receiving Christ and believing on His name, we are given the right to become children of God...What a privilege!

Today, I want us to look at the third point of this section...

III) THE DIVINE PRESENCE: vv 14-18 John will be making the point throughout this book that Jesus is indeed the Son of God, and very God. That He is Divine, yet He is man. Notice...

A) The Miracle: vv 14-15 *"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'")"*

V 14 *"And the Word (Christ) became flesh (human, incarnate) and dwelt (tabernacled, fixed His tent of flesh, lived awhile) among us..."* This is the **MIRACLE** of all miracles.

This verse really summarizes the entire book of John. God in the flesh. God "con carne" (with meat) Have you ever bought a can of chili and seen those words written on it. Chili con carne, means Chili with meat. It's Latin, and similar to Incarnate. Con carne; with meat. Incarnation; enfleshed. When speaking of Christ, it means Divinity and humanity indivisible and incomprehensible, but full of truth. Believe it and live forever. Reject the God-Man and be separated forever from His glorious presence.

I) THE DIVINE PROCLAMATION: vv 6-8

II) THE DIVINE PRIVILEGE: vv 9-13

III) THE DIVINE PRESENCE: vv 14-18

A) The Miracle: vv 14-15 CONTINUED And He wasn't ALWAYS flesh (meaning He was just a man), but the "*Word became flesh*" - Not "made" but "became." (Gr. *ginomai* - means to emerge, become, transitioning from one thing, one realm, or condition, to another.) Jesus was not created, but was the Creator who condescended to become part of His own creation, a thought too profound to fully comprehend by our mind, and yet a truth that can be fully received by faith.

Compare the verb "was" in John 1:1 with the verb "became" here in John 1:14...

V 1 "*In the beginning WAS the Word*"... Imperfect tense indicating a continuing action in the past. This is the language of continuing existence

V 14 "*The Word BECAME flesh*"... Aorist tense indicates an action that took place at a point in time. This is the language of change, as the Word became something that He previously was not.

V 14 "*and dwelt among us*" Steven Cole - "John could have said, "*The Word lived among us*," but instead he used the unusual word, translated "*dwelt*", which means "to pitch a tent" or "to tabernacle." It is used of the tabernacle in the Old Testament, where God dwelt with His people in the wilderness. John does not mean by this term that Jesus' humanity was temporary, but rather, His stay on earth was temporary. By using the word that was used of the tabernacle, coupled with seeing Jesus' glory, John wants us to make some connections. Just as the tabernacle was the place where God dwelt with His people and manifested His glory, so Jesus is Immanuel, God with Us. Just as the tabernacle was at the center of Israel's camp, so Christ is to be at the center of the church. Just as sacrifices and worship were offered at the tabernacle, so Jesus is our complete and final sacrifice, and we have access to God through Him."

John is sharing an intimate tell with us. He is telling us of the days when he, and the other disciples followed Jesus. And Jesus lived among them. Can you imagine the emotions that these memories brought up as John recalled the closeness he once knew to the living Son of God, who was God. He says simply, HE DWELT WITH US. God did.

Spurgeon - Now, Christ's human flesh was God's tabernacle - and it is in Christ that God meets with man, and in Christ that man hath dealings with God....we, having been washed in the precious blood of Christ, have access with boldness unto God, even the Father through Christ, who is our tabernacle and the tabernacle of God among men.

V 14b "*and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*" "His glory" is certainly a continuation of thought as John references the O.T. Tabernacle and presence of God. After the Tabernacle "the Tent of Meeting" was completed, God would come down and meet with Moses. And when Moses would enter the tent, a cloud would come down and cover the entrance to the tent. Rabbis would later describe this as the SHEKINAH GLORY of God. Shekinah coming from the Hebrew root, Shākan, meaning dwelling place.

I) THE DIVINE PROCLAMATION: vv 6-8

II) THE DIVINE PRIVILEGE: vv 9-13

III) THE DIVINE PRESENCE: vv 14-18

A) The Miracle: vv 14-15 CONTINUED JOHN IS SAYING, IN CHRIST, WE HAVE SEEN THE SHEKINAH GLORY OF GOD! Are you beginning to see now, what a miracle indeed the coming of Christ really is?

"full of grace and truth". Steven Cole - His grace offers love and compassion to guilty sinners. His truth warns of God's judgment if sinners do not repent and believe in Him. Grace and truth reach their culmination at the Cross, where the truth of God's holiness and justice was satisfied in the death of the perfect Substitute, so that He now can offer grace to guilty sinners who trust in Jesus.

And Christ doesn't just possess both grace and truth, he is FULL of these attributes. "full" (Gr. Pleres, pronounced - play-race) full, complete, lacking nothing, perfect.

Christ is FULL of both GRACE and TRUTH. Grace and truth are two attributes not often found together in this world. We humans tend to err on one side or the other. If we emphasize grace, we are often too quick to forgive without true repentance. If we stress truth, we tend to be harsh and unloving. But both are needful. If we forgive too quickly, we make light of wrongdoing. If we judge too harshly, we make forgiveness impossible. Grace and truth. These two words explain why Jesus came to the earth. They go to the very heart of the gospel.

V 15 *"(John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'")"*

B) The Mission: vv 16-17 *"For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ."* Ultimately, the Mission of Jesus Christ is to save mankind by bringing us back into a right relationship with God. **Isaiah 59:2** *"your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear."* Because of the fall, that is the sin of Adam in the garden, fellowship with God was broken. Nothing we could do could fix that. Yet God still desired to have a relationship with His creation. And if things were going to be made right, it was up to Him to make it happen. And so, He sends His only Son to come and take what was broken and make it new.

Then it says...

V 16 *"For from his fullness..."* John has just told us that Christ is FULL of grace and truth. Now he says it's from that FULLNESS that *"we have all received, grace upon grace."* "Grace upon grace", is a phrase that speaks of abundant, sufficient grace.

"all" and *"grace upon grace"* compliment each other. ALL was, and is, in need of forgiveness, if we are to know the joy of having a relationship with God. But ALL is a lot. We're not just talking about ALL, at a point in time. But ALL from the beginning of time, until the end of time. Every generation, and every man, women, boy and girl, of every generation. No wonder it required GRACE UPON GRACE. **Revelation 22:17** *"And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely."*

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A) The Miracle: vv 14-15

B) The Mission: vv 16-17 CONTINUED Titus 2:11-14 “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, 13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.” That’s the **MIS-SION** of Jesus Christ.

V 17 “For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.” Let there be no mistake, the only way to the Father is through Jesus Christ. It is only through Jesus that grace can be found.

C) The Message: v 18 “No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.”

As the Word(Logos), Jesus spoke, very literally, the MESSAGE of God. He revealed Father God by speaking the Words of God. Jesus was the embodiment of the voice of God. He was the enfleshed MESSAGE of God to man!

It is through Jesus, and only Jesus, that we can know God. The Word of God confirms this over and over.

Acts 4:12 “And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

1 Timothy 2:5 “For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,”

Romans 10:9 “Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”

John 3:36 “Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.”

CONCLUSION: What a MIRACLE that the Son of God would leave the celestial city of God’s eternal abode, and come to earth, take on the flesh and nature of a man, and then lay down His life for the sins of this world...for your sins and mine. His MISSION was a matter of life and death. He died that we might live! And His MESSAGE is still sounding out around the world. BELIEVE AND BE SAVED! What do you believe about the Jesus?